

Whatstandwell Footpath Consultation Results

A 12 week consultation on proposals to improve the Public Footpath between Main Road, Whatstandwell and Whatstandwell Railway Station (Crich Footpath No.42), ended on 31 October 2016.

The proposals were to lay a tarmac surface and install low intensity lighting on the Public Footpath. The proposals have been developed by Derbyshire County Council Rights of Way and Street Lighting, working with Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership.

The key proposals were:

1. Resurface footpath with a tarmac surface, providing a high quality surface for accessing the station.
2. Install four low intensity and low wattage LED lighting points at a height of 2.5 to 3m. These low intensity lights should enable users to see the footpath whilst minimising environmental impact within the conservation area. These are low intensity lights compared to standard higher intensity street lights typically at a height of 5m. It is proposed that the 3m columns will be painted green to further minimise the environmental impact.
3. Remove existing street lamp located on telegraph pole near the Main Road end of the path. This is difficult to maintain and will be replaced with the new lighting

The consultation was available for completion on the Derbyshire website. Posters were displayed along the path and at the station informing people of the consultation. Letters were sent to houses adjacent to the footpath and local stakeholders including Crich Parish Council, East Midlands Trains and Network Rail.

A total of 23 responses were received: 19 responses were received via the website and 4 by Email - some of these respondents may have also completed the form on the website.

Summary of Responses

1) General

There was support for improving the footpath which was deemed in a poor state by many respondents citing mud in winter and loose gravel as a slip hazard. Many were also concerned about the lack of lighting.

2) Surfacing Proposals

Overall support for surfacing improvements but at least 25% of respondents were concerned about using tarmac surfacing. Concern mainly related to this being slippery when icy especially on top steeper section of path. There were also some concerns about tarmac impacting on the rural character of the path.

3) Lighting Proposals

The majority of respondents supported lighting the path. However there were concerns regarding the height of the lights and that they would be on all night causing both light pollution and a security risk to adjoining properties. There were requests for lights to be at lower height below the wall and for there to be a decrease in the number of lights. Local residents were particularly concerned by the impact of the lights.

Response from Network Rail identified that there were proposals to remove the light column from the disused platform. This light illuminates the railway footbridge and steps up to the canal. It was suggested that the scheme be extended to include an additional light near the entrance to the canal.

Other Issues Identified

4) Steps

A request to remove the lower couple of steps. There was a request to reduce the number and steepness of the top flight of steps

5) Drainage

Several people raised the drainage problems including that tarmac could cause more runoff and flooding of the path.

6) Handrail

Several people commented on the damaged handrail and one person requested a handrail along the entire length of path.

7) Wall Repair

Minor repairs to the damaged wall were requested by one respondent.